

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-21 were originally filed in the present application.

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application.

Claims 1, 9 and 17 were rejected in the May 25, 2007 Office Action.

Claims 2-8, 10-16 and 18-21 were objected to in the May 25, 2007 Office Action.

No claims have been allowed.

Claims 2, 10 and 18 are cancelled herein.

Claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 11, 16, 17, and 19 are amended herein

Claims 22-24 are added herein.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-17, and 19-24 remain in the present application.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Applicants note that new Claims 22-24 are analogous to Claims 6-8. As a result, no new matter has been added by the addition of new Claims 22-24.

In Section 1 of the May 25, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claims 1-21 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 because of alleged antecedent basis problems associated with the phrase “a Layer 2 address” in Claims 1, 9 and 17. The Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner’s objection to Claims 1, 9 and 17. In amended Claim 1, the first occurrence of “Layer 2 address” is recited in the limitation “Layer 2 addresses associated with said Layer 2 frames”. However, the second occurrence of “Layer 2 address” is recited in the limitation “a Layer 2 address associated with said first received

data packet”. Thus, the second occurrence is directed to a particular address, namely “a Layer 2 address associated with said first received data packet.”

In Section 1 of the May 25, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner also objected to Claim 17 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 due to an antecedent basis problem associated with the phrase “data packets” in lines 5-6 of Claim 17. The Applicant has amended Claim 17, as the Examiner suggested, to recite “the data packets.”

In Section 2 of the May 25, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner objected to Claims 1 and 17 under 37 C.F.R. 1.75 because of the phrase “capable of”. The Applicant notes that original Claim 17 does not contain the phrase “capable of”, but believes that this was a typographical error and that the Examiner intended to object to original Claim 9, which did contain the phrase “capable of”. The Applicant notes that Claim 1 and Claim 9 have both been amended to remove the phrase “capable of”.

In Sections 3-5 of the May 25, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 9 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the U.S. Patent No. 6,78,963 to *Civanlar et al.* (hereafter, simply “*Civanlar*”) in view of U. S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0156371 A1 to *Kumar et al.* (hereafter, simply “*Kumar*”). However, in Sections 6 and 7 of the May 25, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner also stated that dependent Claims 2, 10 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of independent Claims 1, 9 and 17, respectively.

In view of the Examiner's statement regarding the allowability of Claims 2, 10 and 18, the Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include the patentable limitations recited in original dependent Claim 2 (now cancelled), have amended independent Claim 9 to include the patentable limitations recited in original dependent Claim 10 (now cancelled), and have amended independent Claim 17 to include the patentable limitations recited in original dependent Claim 18 (now cancelled). Thus, the Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1, 9 and 17, as amended, are patentable over the *Civanlar* and *Kumar* references. Furthermore, dependent Claims 3-8, dependent Claims 11-16, and dependent Claims 19-24 depend from independent Claims 1, 9 and 17, respectively and therefore contain the corresponding patentable limitations recited in Claims 1, 9 and 17. Thus, Claims 3-8, 11-16, and 19-24 are also patentable over the *Civanlar* and *Kumar* references.

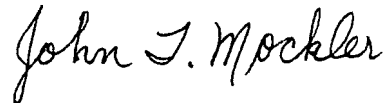
**SUMMARY**

For the reasons given above, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims and that this application be passed to issue. If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *jmockler@munckbutrus.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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